

# Crews to patrol fire lines today to hold back blaze

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Firefighters expect it might be Wednesday before they completely contain a forest fire in Jones Gap State Park, but they say the blaze is unlikely to cause further damage.

"The fire could still spread some, but we don't think it will," South Carolina Forestry Commission spokesman Russell Hubright said.

The fire — which ignited before dawn Sunday in gusting winds, likely as the result of an "inadequately doused" campfire — spread across about 150 acres in the popular Greenville County park near the North Carolina border.

A total of 250 acres have been burned as firefighters lit controlled blazes inside a broader perimeter they created



Smoke rises below the chapel at Pretty Place.

to contain the flames, Hubright said. About 20 percent of the fire has been contained.

Firefighters began the day Monday using hand tools to dig "firebreaks" but got some help when bulldozers managed to trek across the mountainous terrain, he said.

Today will be spent doing "mop-up work," where firefighters patrol the firebreak with hand tools and put out any embers, he said.

Early on, firefighters managed to save the chapel at Pretty Place, where countless reli-

## Wildfire continues to burn in state park



SUZIE RIDDLE / Staff

gious ceremonies have been carried out over the years. No structures were lost to the flames, Hubright said.

Fire and park officials praised a Powdersville Boy Scout troop for discovering the fire and trying to beat it out along Hospital Rock Trail and calling firefighters.

The park remains closed until the fire is under control.

## Wildfire 20 percent contained



Photos by PATRICK COLLARD / Staff

The forest fire in Jones Gap smolders as a firefighter works on a fire break behind the Jones Gap Education Center.